



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
**COUNTY OF SOLANO**

**DAVID W. PAULSON**  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**Douglas N. Keener**  
Chief Deputy

**L. Kathryn Coffey**  
Chief Deputy

**George H. Williamson**  
Chief Deputy

**Al Garza**  
Chief Investigator

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**FROM: DAVID W. PAULSON**  
District Attorney of Solano County

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ON January 30, 2003**

**ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S LARGEST GREASE HAULING BUSINESSES  
ACCUSED OF POLLUTION AND ILLEGAL BUSINESS PRACTICES**

Solano County District Attorney DAVID W. PAULSON announced that a civil enforcement action was filed today in San Joaquin County charging a large Fresno-based grease hauling business with violations of water pollution laws. The case is based on the work of a statewide taskforce created by the California Environmental Protection Agency to focus enforcement efforts on the illegal disposal of waste grease in California. The complaint was filed in San Joaquin County with the action joined by eleven counties throughout California including Kings, Madera, Merced, Monterey, Sacramento, San Bernardino, Shasta, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, and Tehama Counties.

The complaint alleges that Thrifty Best Service, a company operated by Central California Wastepaper Incorporated violated provisions of the state Water Code and Fish and Game Code, created a public nuisance and engaged in unfair business practices including false advertising by illegally dumping inedible kitchen grease into public sewers and storm drains. Thrifty Best Service faces penalties under the complaint in excess of \$3 Million dollars. Prosecutors will also be seeking a court order preventing Thrifty Best Service from illegally disposing of grease waste while the action is pending.

The illegal disposal of restaurant grease is a significant statewide problem causing damage to publicly owned sewage treatment facilities, expensive sewer back-ups and damage to the environment including water pollution. Businesses contracting with Thrifty Best for waste grease services expect the company to properly dispose of the waste through sewage treatment plants, rendering plants or recycling facilities and were likely unaware of the alleged unlawful disposals. The complaint alleges that Thrifty Best Service employees have violated the law in at least seven incidents occurring in seven different locations ranging from Redding to Rancho Cucamonga.

Thrifty Best Service was recently convicted of water pollution-related crimes in Santa Clara County and was ordered to pay over \$34,000 in fines and costs. In the same case, one of Thrifty Best Service's drivers was convicted of a felony and was sentenced to up to 90 days in jail and must pay a \$13,500 fine. A felony complaint was also recently filed against Thrifty Best Service and another of its drivers in Sonoma County. The case is pending at this time.

The District Attorneys joining in today's filing include:

RONALD L. CALHOUN  
District Attorney of Kings County

ERNEST J. LICALSI  
District Attorney of Madera County

GORDON SPENCER  
District Attorney of Merced County

DEAN FLIPPO  
District Attorney of Monterey County

JAN SCULLY  
District Attorney of Sacramento County

MICHAEL RAMOS  
District Attorney of San Bernardino County

JOHN D. PHILLIPS  
District Attorney of San Joaquin County

McGREGOR SCOTT  
District Attorney of Shasta County

DAVID W. PAULSON  
District Attorney of Solano County

STEPHAN PASSALACQUA  
District Attorney of Sonoma County

JAMES C. BRAZELTON  
District Attorney of Stanislaus County

GREG COHEN  
District Attorney of Tehama County

**CONTACT PERSON for the Solano County District Attorney's Office:**

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